



PREVIEW
EDITION

VAMPI VICIOUS



**VAMPI'S NEW TEAM SERIES
INTRODUCING THE NEW CHARACTERS
INTERVIEW WITH SEAN MCKEEVER**

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VAMPI® VICIOUS

Written by
SEAN McKEEVER
Art by
OMAR DOGAN &
UDON



IN STORES JULY 2003 FROM ANARCHY STUDIOS

SEAN McKEEVER interview

Sean Kelley McKeever came into the comics forefront with his own book *The Waiting Place* receiving critical praise. The third trade collection of this extraordinary series comes out this summer. Known more for his down-to-earth stories and indepth "regular people," McKeever might not be the guy one would think of to take on the future's favorite vampire, but with two titles under Marvel's Tsunami line, and a healthy dose of G.I. Joe, you'll be quite pleased with what the writer cooks up.

Why take on a project like VAMPI: VICIOUS?

I did so under threat of eviction by my landlord.

Okay, that's not true.

Here's the part where most people make some lame comment about "really wanting to sink my teeth into" a Vampi story, but I would say that, in all seriousness, I took this on because I was excited about the idea of writing something vastly different from what people are used to from me. I've clearly been cast as the guy who writes teenagers and their angsty fun. Which is stuff I do like to write, but I wanted a chance to showcase that I can do more.

I love futurescapes and craziness and action, and want to infuse all that with some characters I can hopefully get readers to care about at least a little.

Are you a big fan of crazy, over-the-top action?

Yeah, pretty much. I can really get into a good, mindless action flick, as long as it's well directed and not entirely insulting, you know? And there's something to be said for good acting.

When it comes to comics, I do still get an insane kick out of stuff like Ellis' *Authority* and Miller's *Hard Boiled*. It's all so beautifully violent.

What can you tell readers about Vampi's new associates?

I'd like people to discover what they can from reading the book itself, but suffice it to say that Vampi will be meeting and teaming up with some interesting folks in this book, from a teen girl with emerging psionic abilities to a somber mage to a thrill-seeking bartender to a tarnished ex-cop looking for his own brand of justice. I know how eighties that last one sounds, but he's not Bronson or Stallone, honest.

How does this project differ from some of the other things you're working on right now, like "Sentinel"?

Books like *Sentinel* and *Inhumans* are really character showcases more than they are science fiction or fantasy comics, whereas I'd describe VAMPI as more of a sci-fi actioner with an eye toward sincere character work. Whatever that means.

What do you think of the designs of the characters?

Omar Dogan and the folks at UDON impress the hell out of me. Omar really has me excited about working on this book; I'm sure he won't disappoint.

What can readers expect to see in this story?

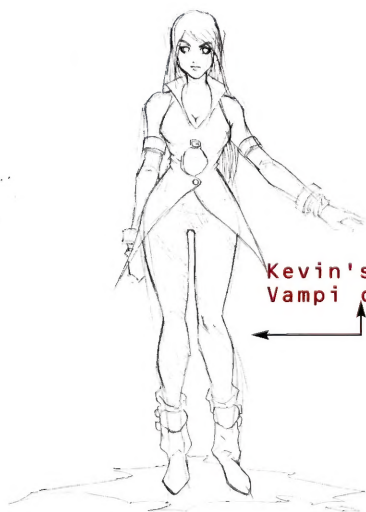
Exciting cityscapes, multi-faceted characters and a wild ride.

<http://seanmckeever.com>

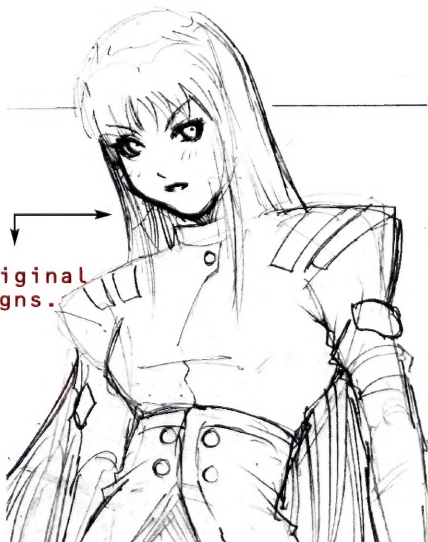
WHO'S THAT GIRL?



Kevin Lau's spending his days working on XIN (flip this sucker over and see!), but his influence is still well felt. Beginning with Kevin's vision for this new direction, Omar Dogan spun it his own way. Taking strong elements from what Kevin devised, working with Sean McKeever to flesh out the characters, and with a little editorial direction thrown in for good measure, Omar showcases his own skills. And what skill it is.



Kevin's original
Vampi designs.





Omar's
design



VIC

Vic once proudly carried a badge. Now, he does what he needs to do to get by.

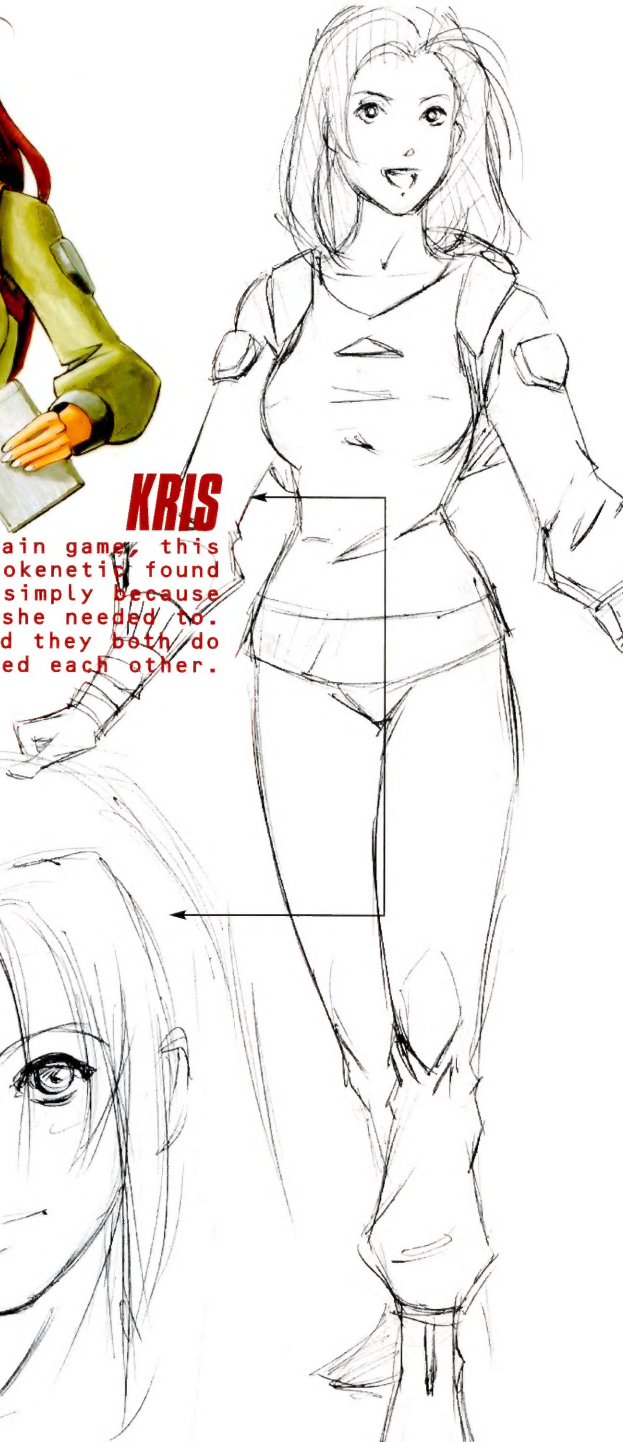


WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?



KRIS

Into the brain game, this
young psychokinetic found
Vampi simply because
she needed to.
And they both do
need each other.



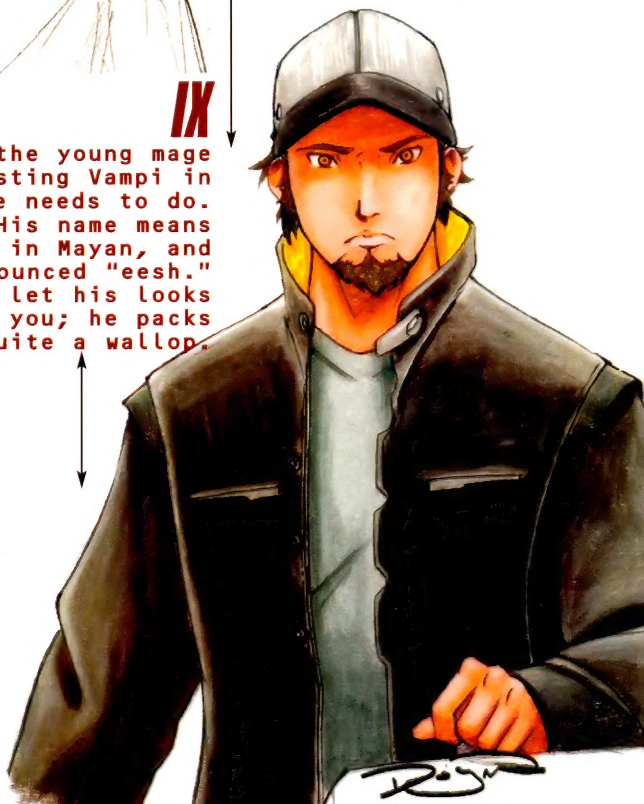


IX

Ix is the young mage assisting Vampi in what she needs to do.

His name means "wizard" in Mayan, and is pronounced "eesh."

Don't let his looks deceive you; he packs quite a wallop.

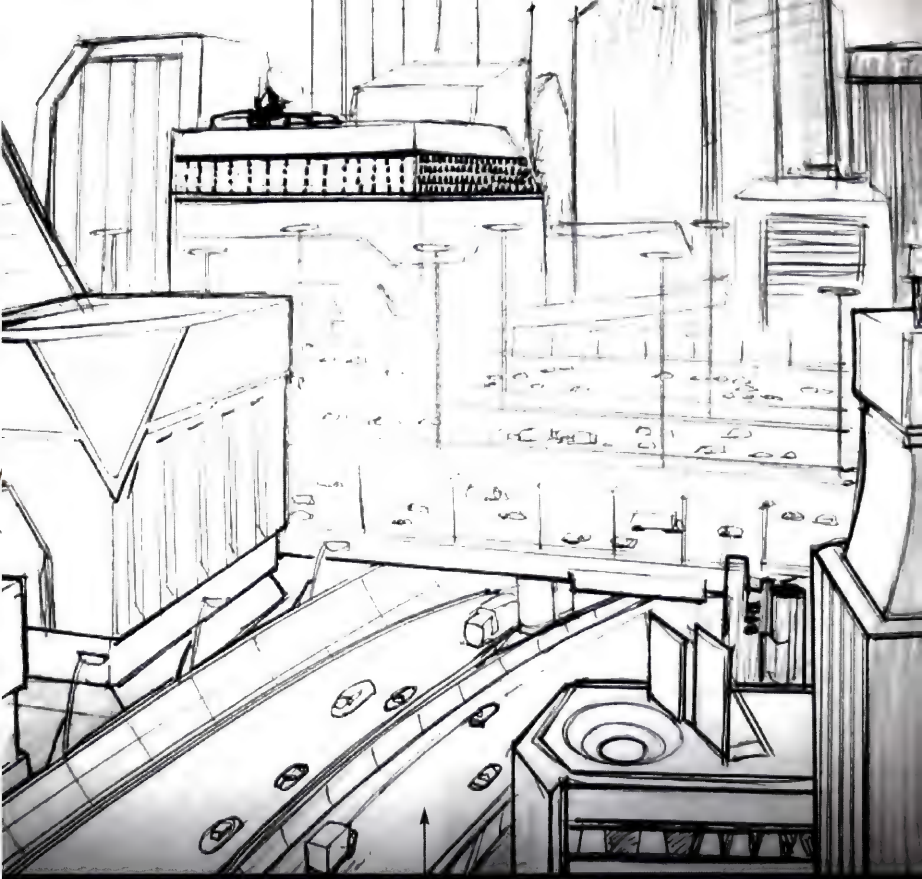




PRETTY DEADLY

Don't forget to tip this bartender! That's all we're saying. Trust us.





WELCOME TO NEW CHICAGO

You're in for a treat. It's a futuristic world, without all the trappings of home. Hope you like the view.



VAMPI: VICIOUS #1 Pages 9-11

To give you a taste of things to come,
we offer up a few pages ripped from the
center of the action.
Welcome to the middle of Sean's story.

Page Nine (4 panels)

Panel 1. A narrow page-wide strip; a tight head shot of IX, who reassures Kris with the confidence and seriousness in his presentation.

IX (no tail): If there's anyone who can help you, it's her.

Panel 2. A big panel. Now we see her in her full glory: Vampi stands in the center of the room, swords touching the ground, human carnage all about, a hard, tough look on her face.

IX (no tail): It's Vampi.

Panel 3. Vampi runs down the hall where the guards came from. She's wearing a T in the hall.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel 4. Alarmed, Vampi screeches to a halt before the T.

NO DIALOGUE

Page Ten (5 panels)

Panel 1. We see what's made Vampi stop in her tracks: it's VIC (the ex-cop). He is in fiber optic camouflage mode. Basically, it's a better version of this: http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_747591.html, like the Predator camouflage.

NO DIALOGUE

Panel 2. Vampi swings a sword at Vic. He starts to turn the suit into a visible, grayish/blue hue with distortion patterning, like you get when oil sits on water. He reaches out with an arm, and nanobots from the suit take off toward the blade.

VIC: Wait.

Panel 3. The nanobots have formed a shield. Her sword breaks on it. Vampi freaks. She can't believe her eyes, and she's seen a lot.

VAMPI: The hell...?

VIC: Now, hold on a minute...

Panel 4. Vampi delivers a nice side kick, sending Vic

toward the wall.

VIC: HNNN!

Panel 5. Vic slams against the wall. Depending on what the wall's made of, he either has broken through it (dry-wall, cement blocks) or dented it (metal). He appears to have no time to recover as Vampi leaps at him with her remaining sword.

VIC (small): Stop.

Page Eleven (5 panels)

Panel 1. Vic hasn't totally recovered from Vampi's assault, but no matter: the suit reaches out from his head with an artificial hand headed for Vampi's throat.

VIC: I said, stop!

Panel 2. The hand slams Vampi up against the opposite wall. As Vic stands, the fake arm's base moves down the side of his neck.

VAMPI: GNEHH!

Panel 3. Focus on Vampi. She struggles with the hand, but to no avail. In fact, it's no longer a hand. It's now taken a semi-circular shape, forming tight against her throat. The color of the suit is changing to silver.

VAMPI (small): What are you?

Panel 4. The suit clears the area around Vic's eyes, to show her he's a person, and to communicate his sincerity. He's silver hued now.

VIC: There's no need for this, and no time. I think we're both after the same thing.

VAMPI: The doctor?

Panel 5. Focus on Vic for a head shot. We still see his eyes, and a distorted Vampi can be seen in the reflection of the suit.

VIC: Yeah.

VIC: The doctor.





XIN

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PREVIEW
EDITION

JOURNEY OF THE MONKEY KING



ADVANCE LOOK

AT THE NEW SERIES

JOIN THE JOURNEY!

LAU • FAERBER • KO • DOGAN



ANARCHY
STUDIOS



MONKEY JOURNEYS

WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT KIN

"THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE MOST SOLID ACTION ADVENTURE COMIC ON THE STANDS."

-CHRIS BUTCHER, PREVIOUSREVIEW.COM

"KIN IS THE BRIGHTEST NEW KID ON THE BLOCK. A GREAT LOOK, FUN BOOR --- IT'S LIKE *BATTLE CHASERS* ON SPEED!"

-JUN GOERU, GEOFFREY'S.COMICS.CA

"LAU'S WORK, WHICH PUTS ONE IN MIND OF SOME HIGHLY ENERGETIC ANIME, WAS A DELIGHT TO DRINK IN."

-DON MACPHERSON, THEFOURTHRAIL.COM

"THE CHARACTERS ARE REALLY FASCINATING... [LAU AND RO] MAKE A GREAT TEAM... JAY FAERBER DID THE DIALOGUE WONDERFULLY... THE ART WAS SIMPLY BREATHTAKING... EVERY PANEL WAS DRAWN TO PERFECTION..."

-TOM TONER, COMIXTREME.COM

"KIN HAS PROVED TO BE A STRONG SELLER. STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE PUBLISHER

COUPLED WITH MOMENTUM BASED ON KEVIN'S WORK ON *VAMPI* HAS GIVEN THIS NEW SERIES A GOOD START. I WAS SURPRISED AT THE NUMBER OF FANS WHO BOUGHT THE BOOK BASED ON THEIR FAMILIARITY WITH THE *MONKEY KING* SAGA. IT HAS A MANGA LOOK WITH STRONG STORYTELLING."

-BILL LIEBOWITZ, GOLDENAPPLE.COM

"WITH A FUN TWIST OF ANCIENT CHINESE LOCATIONS AND A FANCIFUL CAST OF FANTASY CREATURES, THIS SERIES IS SUITE TO PLEASE BOTH MANGA AND TRADITIONAL COMIC FANS ALIKE."

-JIM KUHORIC, DIAMONDSTAFF.PIC

"PART SUPERHERO, PART ANTI-HERO, KIN, HIMSELF, IS REFRESHINGLY BRASH AND CONCEITED

IN A WAY THAT IS STILL VAGUELY LIKABLE. THE REASON WHY? FOR THE MOST PART, HE IS THAT GOOD... MAKING HIM A POTENTIALLY VALUABLE ALLY OR DEADLY ENEMY."

-ALISON L. ROBERTS, ABSOLUTE-0.COM

"THE ARTWORK HERE IS DOWNRIGHT GORGEOUS."

-RANDY LANDER, THEFOURTHRAIL.COM

"I JUST WANTED TO STOP BY AND LET KEVIN AND COMPANY KNOW THAT I REALLY ENJOYED KIN AND HOPE TO SEE MORE OF HIM IN THE FUTURE. THE ART IS JUST AMAZING AND THE DESIGNS FOR THE CHARACTERS ARE EXCELLENT."

-JASON, POSTING.ON.ANARCHY-STUDIOS.COM

 WWW.ANARCHY-STUDIOS.COM 





STORY BY
KEVIN LAU AND ERIK KO

PENCILS BY
KEVIN LAU

BACKGROUNDS AND COLORS BY
OMAR DOGAN AND UDON

DIALOGUE BY
JAY FAEERBER

LETTERING BY
COMICRAFT'S JASON LEVINE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
BONI ALIMAGNO

EDITOR
MAUREEN McTIGUE



WELL, WELL,
WELL. CHECK IT
OUT **MASTER
SANZEN.**

THE
FIRST STOP
ON OUR **SAVE-
THE-WORLD
TOUR...**

...**SKY TENT
CITY, HEAVEN'S
INFORMATION
HUB.**

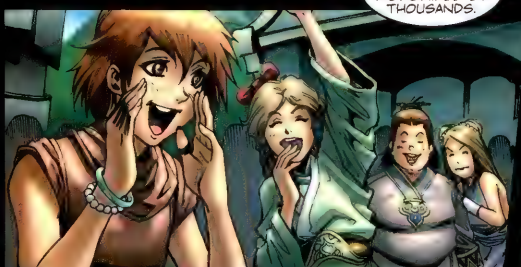
IT'S...
IT'S SO **BIG,**
SO... **ALIVE** WITH
ENERGY AND
IDEAS!

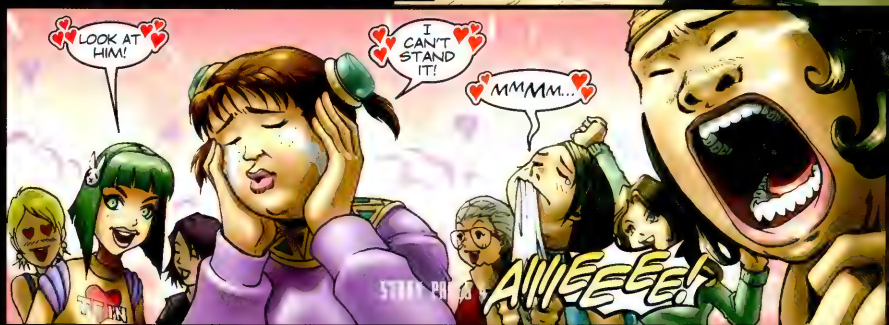
I'VE SPENT
MY ENTIRE LIFE
IN HEAVEN, XIN, IS
THE REST OF THE
OUTSIDE WORLD
LIKE **THIS?**

HEH.
NOT EVEN
CLOSE.











HEAVEN TOLD US TO EXPECT YOU, AND I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY CONSIDERATE POWER TO AID YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY.

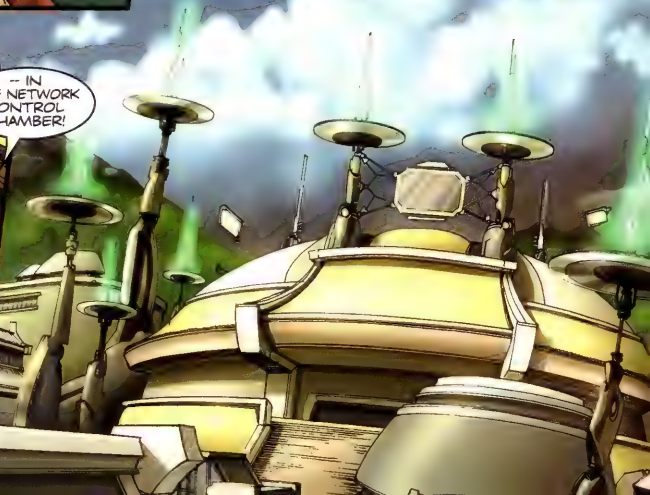


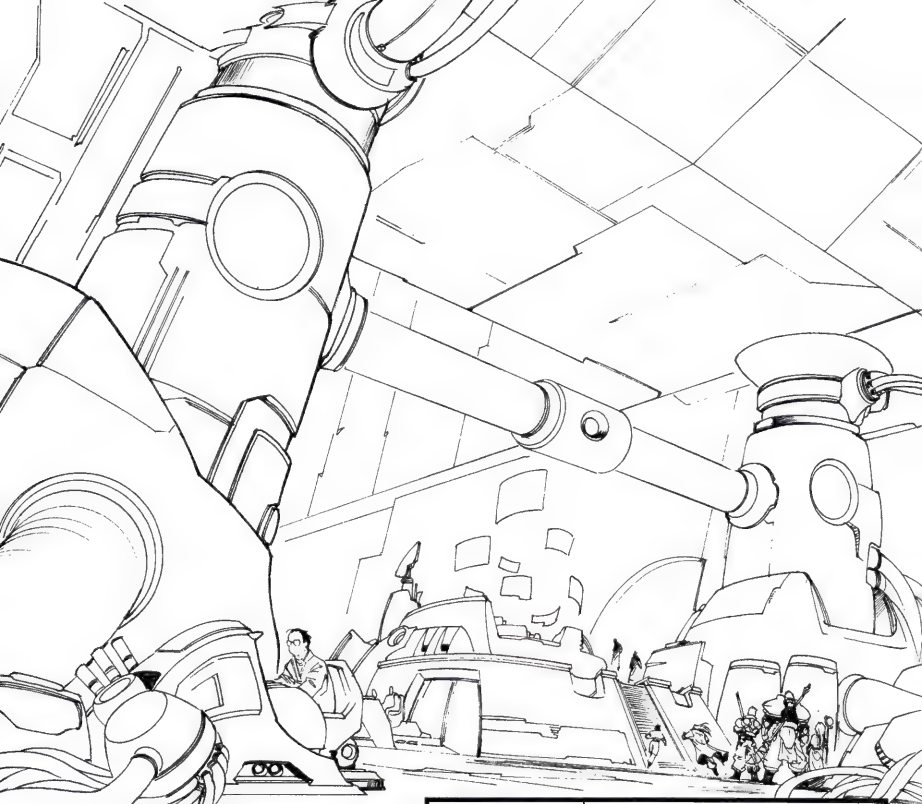
GREETINGS. IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO OFFER YOU ALL THE HOSPITALITY OF OUR HOME.

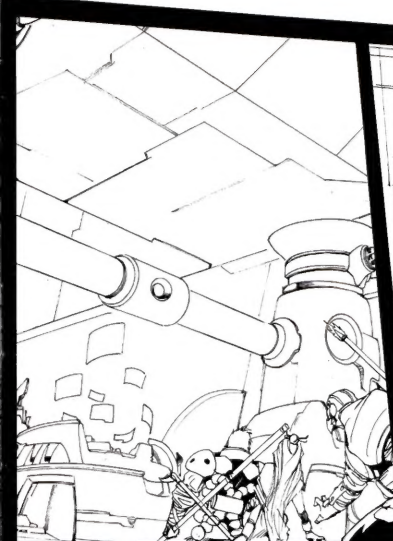
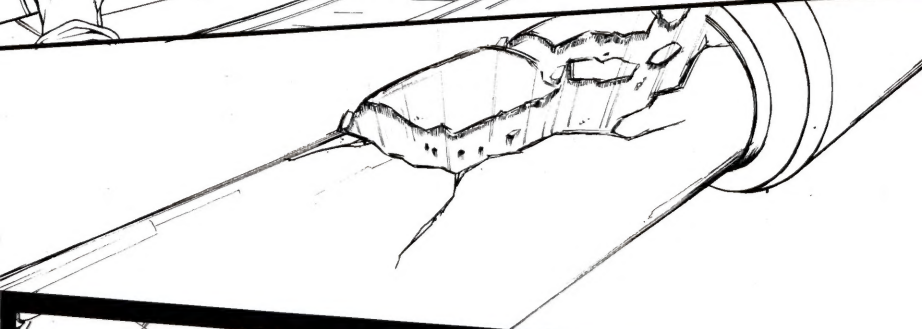


SIR. SIR.

THERE'S AN EMERGENCY SITUATION -- -- IN THE NETWORK CONTROL CHAMBER!









KEVIN LAU

INTERVIEW

1. DID THE FIRST XIN SERIES FULFILL YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

YES, IT DID. OF COURSE, WE ONLY HAD THREE ISSUES FOR THE FIRST SERIES... I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO INTO MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE CHARACTERS IF I HAD A LITTLE MORE ROOM. BUT, YA KNOW, THAT'S WHAT THE NEW SERIES IS FOR!

2. WILL THIS NEW SERIES BE DIFFERENT OR JUST CONTINUE WHAT WAS STARTED IN THE FIRST SERIES?

THE NEW SERIES IS CONTINUING WHERE WE LEFT OFF IN LEGEND OF THE MONKEY KING BUT WITH SOME NEW CHARACTERS AND PLACES.

3. WHAT PARTS OF THE MONKEY LEGEND ARE YOU GOING TO BORROW FOR JOURNEY OF THE MONKEY KING?

I DIDN'T REALLY BORROW ANY SPECIFIC STORYLINE FROM THE ORIGINAL LEGEND FOR THE SECOND SERIES. ONLY THE CHARACTERS, TENPO AND THE SPIDER WOMAN.

4. TENPO APPEARS TO BE A NEW MAJOR SUPPORTING CHARACTER. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT HIM?

TENPO IS A VERY CONCEITED CHARACTER. HORNY, PERVERT... HAHA AND A TRUE LADIES MAN, AS FAR AS HE THINKS. WELL, BEFORE HE GETS TURNED INTO A PIG.

5. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANY OTHER NEW CHARACTERS YOU'RE GOING TO INTRODUCE?

THE OTHER MAIN CHARACTER OF THIS SERIES IS THE SPIDER WOMAN WHO WILL CAUSE ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE, MOSTLY DUE TO TENPO, THOUGH.

6. WHEN'S XIN GOING TO START BEHAVING HIMSELF?

NOT ANYTIME SOON!

KEVIN LAU

ERIC RO

INTERVIEW

Q: ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE WAY THE FIRST STORY CAME OUT?

THE FIRST STORY WAS AN EXPERIMENT AND THE OUTCOME IS VERY SATISFACTORY! THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I WAS WORRYING WITH KEVIN ON THE STORY END AND WE FED OFF EACH OTHER VERY WELL. WE HAD THE SAME GOAL AS TO WHAT WE WANTED TO SEE IN THIS BOOK RIGHT FROM THE START. HOWEVER, AT FIRST WE WENT BACK AND FORTH QUITE A LOT IN TERMS OF HOW LONG SHOULD THIS SCENE BE? OR HOW CAN WE GOING TO DEVELOP THIS CHARACTER AND THAT? TO ME, IT IS MORE OF GETTING USE TO KEVIN'S WAY OF STORYTELLING IN ORDER TO DO UP A PLOT THAT CAN MAXIMIZE HIS STRENGTH IN THE ART. NOW THAT I KNOW HOW MUCH ACTION SPACE KEVIN NEEDS TO DO HIS THING AND, ALSO WITH KIN ESTABLISHED A BIT, THE UPCOMING STORIES WILL BE EVEN BETTER PLOTTED!

Q: WHAT CAN READERS LOOK FORWARD TO IN JOURNEY OF THE MONKEY RING?

THE FIRST MINI HAPPENED ALL IN THE HEAVEN COMPLEX. IN JOURNEY, THEY ARE TRAVELLING TO ALL THESE DIFFERENT PLACES AND YOU ENCOUNTER A LOT OF DIFFERENT CHARACTERS AND NEW ENVIRONMENTS. LIKE THE FIRST STEP OF THIS JOURNEY WILL TAKE THEM TO SRY TENT CITY, A TOTAL HIGH TECH TOWN! THERE WILL BE A LOT MORE INTERACTION BETWEEN KIN, SANZEN AND THE SUPPORTING CAST, AND SINCE EACH CHARACTER WILL HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE PERSONALITY AND TRAITS, READERS WILL SEE A LOT MORE DEVELOPMENT ON OUR MAIN CAST THROUGH HOW THEY REACT TO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS. AND WITH DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, THE ACTION SEQUENCES WILL BE PLOTTED VERY DIFFERENTLY FROM EACH OTHER TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FIGHTS ARE ALWAYS FRESH FOR THE READERS!

Q: WHAT BITS OF THE ORIGINAL STORY  JOURNEY TO THE WEST  CAN READERS HOPE TO SEE?

WE ALL KNOW THAT OTHER THAN SANZEN AND KIN, THERE WOULD BE TWO MORE MEMBERS JOINING THEM AS THE REGULAR CAST. READERS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE FIRST ONE, TENPO, IN THIS FIRST STORY ARC. WE ARE INCORPORATING AS MUCH OF A SIMILAR HISTORY AS WE CAN WITH

A TWIST TO THESE CHARACTERS. AND YOU WILL SEE OUR VERSIONS OF THE MONSTERS AND EVIL GOONS DOWN THE ROAD TOO! OUR GOAL IS TO GIVE THE READERS WHO ARE FAMILAR WITH THE ORIGINAL STORY A PLEASANT SUPRISE WITH REFRESHING TARES ON THEIR FAVORITE CHARACTERS, WHILE BEING COMPLETELY ACCESSIBLE TO NEW READERS.

Q: WHATS IT LIKE TO MODERNIZE THE STORY, ADDING TECHNOLOGY TO A MYTHOLOGICAL WORLD?

THE GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO DO THIS AS A SCI-FI FANTASY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. WE FEEL THAT THE HIGH TECH ENVIRONMENT CAN COMPLIMENT THE MYTHOLOGICAL ELEMENTS WELL AND THAT KEEPS A GOOD BALANCE OF THE CLASSIC FANTASY LOOK WITH A MODERN TWIST. IT GETS MORE INTERESTING TO SEE THE ENVIRONMENT WITH GREAT STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS THAT ARE BUILT WITH CONCRETE AND STEEL WHILE THEY RESEMBLE THE LOOK OF OLD FASHION BUILDINGS. PLOT-WISE, WE CAN DO MUCH MORE OUT-OF-THE-WORLD CRAZY STUFF AS THE POWERS OF THE CHARACTERS CAN GO BOTH WAYS - HIGH TECH MECH OR TOTAL MAGIC! IT IS A LOT OF FUN BECAUSE WITH THE MIX, WE CAN BASICALLY CREATE ANYTHING WE WANT WITHOUT ANY BOUNDRIES! AND I BELIEVE THE READERS WILL ENJOY MORE BECAUSE OF ALL THE GADGETS AND DETAILS THAT WE ARE PUTTING IN THE BOOK AS WELL!

Q: CAN YOU TEASE WHAT KIND OF THINGS KIN AND COMPANY WILL FIND ON THIS JOURNEY?

LETS SEE... GOOD LOOKING CHICKS, A POOR PIG, A SLIMY SPIDER, A REVENGEFUL DOG, A BASTARD MONKEY... AN INTRIGUING STORY, A LITTLE BIT OF SEXINESS, A LOT OF ACTION, AND MUCH MORE! NOW, WHO WANTS TO MISS ALL THIS?

 ERIC RO 

TALON



novus